

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-1c targets the reduction in the infant death rate to 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

A total of 2,962 California infants born in 2000 died in their first year of life, at a rate of 5.6 per 1,000 live births based on data extracted from the Birth Cohort Files (Figure 16-1c, Table 16-1c). For 2001 a total of 2,819 infant deaths were recorded at a rate of 5.3 per 1,000 live births, and for 2002 there was a total of 2,905 infant deaths at a rate of 5.5 per 1,000 live births. California's infant death rate remains significantly higher than the target established in HP2010.

Data by race-ethnicity of the mother show that Black/African American mothers had the highest cohort infant death rates: 11.7 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 11.1 in 2001, and 11.6 in 2002. These rates are significantly higher than those of any other racial and ethnic population, and 2.5 times greater than the HP2010 objective. The next highest infant death rates are reported for the "Multirace" population (6.7 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 5.0 in 2001, and 5.3 in 2002), followed by the Hispanic/Latino population (5.2 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 5.1 in 2001, and 5.2 in 2002). Cohort infant death rates for Whites were moving away from the HP2010 target between 2000 and 2002, but the HP2010 target was being achieved for Asians as of 2001.

Examined by age of mother, the infant death rates for mothers under 15 years of age were unreliable based on the small number of events and are not reported here. The highest reliable cohort infant death rates occurred for mothers aged 15 to 19 years (7.4 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 6.9 in 2001, and 7.5 in 2002), followed by mothers aged 35 years and older (6.0 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 5.6 in 2001, and 5.8 in 2002). The HP2010 objective is not being achieved for any maternal age grouping as of 2002, although infant death rates for 25-29 year-old mothers (4.6 in 2002) was very close to the objective of 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

Cohort infant death rates were significantly higher for male infants (5.9 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 5.7 in 2001, and 6.1 in 2002) compared with female infants (5.2 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 5.0 in 2001, and 4.8 in 2002). The HP2010 objective was not being achieved for either male or female infants as of 2002.

For more information on infant deaths in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-1c, please visit:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661
and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#fetaldeaths>

Figure 16-1c
Infant Death Rates
By Race-Ethnicity and Age of Mother, Sex of Child
California, 2000-2002

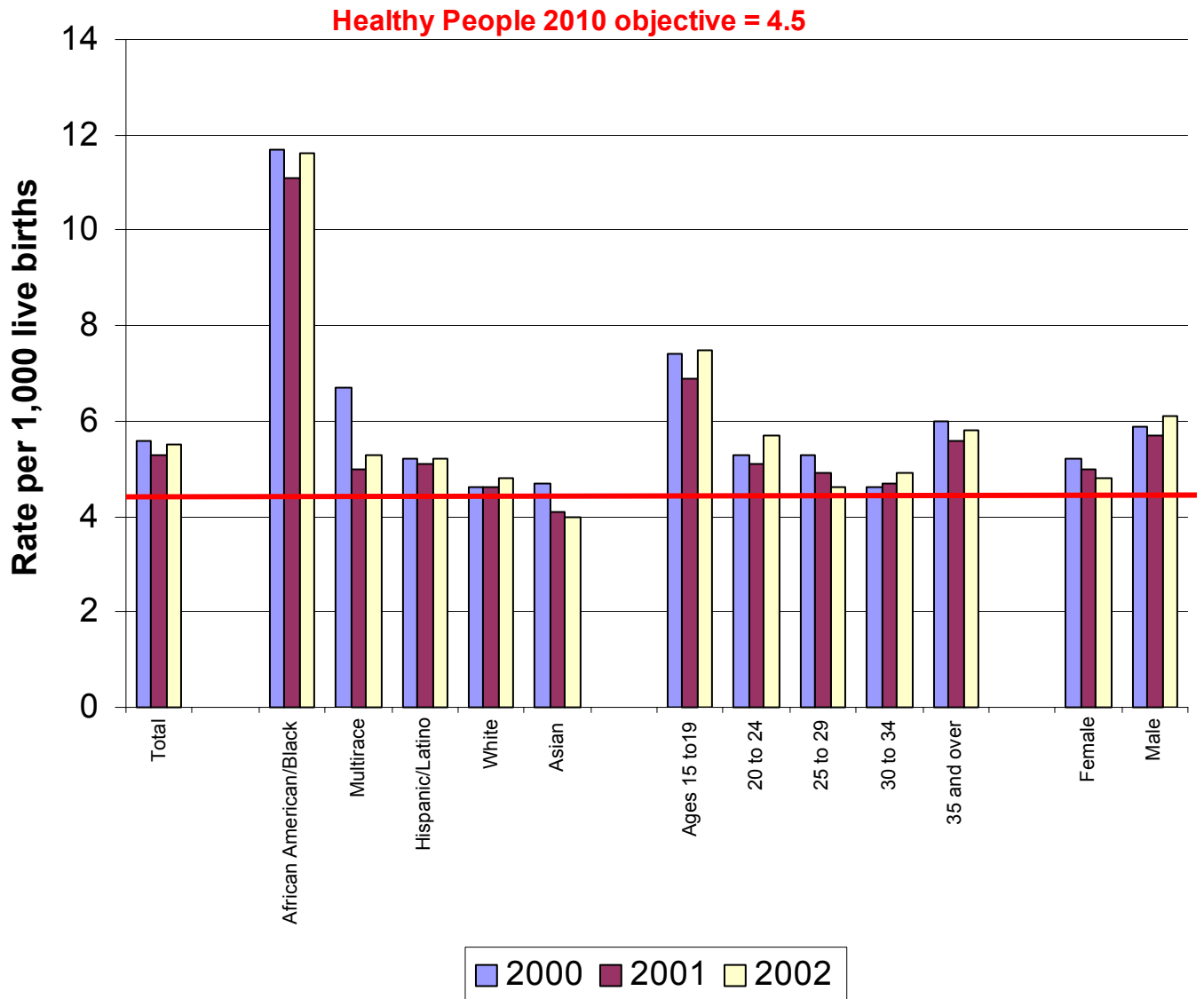


Table 16-1c
Infant Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2002

Cohort Infant Death Rates*	2000					2001				
	Infant Deaths	Live Births	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	Infant Deaths	Live Births	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target	4.5					4.5				
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	2,962	531,313	5.6	5.4	5.8	2,819	527,452	5.3	5.1	5.5
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	377	32,290	11.7	10.5	12.9	344	30,971	11.1	9.9	12.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	1,975	DSU	----	----	16	1,986	DSU	----	----
Asian	275	58,872	4.7	4.1	5.2	234	57,444	4.1	3.6	4.6
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	20	2,376	DSU	----	----	16	2,356	DSU	----	----
Hispanic/Latino	1,354	257,963	5.2	5.0	5.5	1,330	261,022	5.1	4.8	5.4
White	772	168,219	4.6	4.3	4.9	758	163,787	4.6	4.3	5.0
Multirace	42	6,254	6.7	4.7	8.7	32	6,388	5.0	3.3	6.7
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	16	895	DSU	----	----	10	810	DSU	----	----
15 - 19	412	55,375	7.4	6.7	8.2	366	52,972	6.9	6.2	7.6
20 - 24	649	122,581	5.3	4.9	5.7	633	123,231	5.1	4.7	5.5
25 - 29	739	139,604	5.3	4.9	5.7	670	136,448	4.9	4.5	5.3
30 - 34	584	127,509	4.6	4.2	5.0	602	127,951	4.7	4.3	5.1
35 and over	514	85,251	6.0	5.5	6.6	484	85,948	5.6	5.1	6.1
Sex of Child										
Female	1,356	259,218	5.2	5	5.5	1,281	258,171	5.0	4.7	5.2
Male	1,602	272,089	5.9	5.6	6.2	1,527	269,268	5.7	5.4	6.0

Cohort Infant Death Rates*	2002				
	Infant Deaths	Live Births	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target	4.5				
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	2,905	529,334	5.5	5.3	5.7
Race-Ethnicity of Mother					
African American/Black	346	29,809	11.6	10.4	12.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	14	1,966	DSU	----	----
Asian	237	59,376	4.0	3.5	4.5
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	18	2,411	DSU	----	----
Hispanic/Latino	1,378	263,056	5.2	5.0	5.5
White	770	161,486	4.8	4.4	5.1
Multirace	36	6,812	5.3	3.6	7.0
Maternal Age Group					
Under 15	8	743	DSU	----	----
15 - 19	376	50,209	7.5	6.7	8.2
20 - 24	704	123,066	5.7	5.3	6.1
25 - 29	626	137,242	4.6	4.2	4.9
30 - 34	638	130,377	4.9	4.5	5.3
35 and over	504	87,611	5.8	5.3	6.3
Sex of Child					
Female	1,243	258,896	4.8	4.5	5.1
Male	1,655	270,429	6.1	5.8	6.4

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Birth Cohort Perinatal Files, 2000-2002.

NOTES: * Cohort files contain linked birth and death records for infants born in the same calendar year and followed-up for one year to determine how many died during their first year of life.

¹ Rate per 1,000 live births; by mother's place of residence.

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable due to small number of events.